

# McDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

### PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Friday – Saturday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
365 days a year

### NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Sunday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### PARK FEES:

\$6 vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

### ONLINE RESERVATIONS:

<http://www.maricopacountyparks.org/>

### DIRECTIONS:

From central Phoenix, take Loop 202 east to Beeline Highway (SR 87). Continue northeast on SR 87 to Shea Blvd. Travel west on Shea Blvd. to Saguaro Blvd.; turn north. Continue through Town of Fountain Hills to Fountain Hills Blvd; turn right and travel four miles to the McDowell Mountain Regional Park entrance.



### Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.  
McDowell Mountain Regional Park  
16300 McDowell Mountain Park Drive  
MMRP, AZ 85255  
Ph: 480-471-0173  
Fax: 480-471-3523  
[mcdowellpark@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:mcdowellpark@mail.maricopa.gov)



## MARCH 2015 FEATURED PROGRAMS

### Sunset/Full Moon Hike

Date: 3/4/2015 Time: 6 p.m.

**Description:** Have you ever ventured out into the desert at night? If not, now is your chance! Join the Ranger for this hike that will begin as the sun sets, but will end in the light of the full moon. Bring flashlights and come prepared for about a 3-mile hike. Meet at the Trailhead Staging Area.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Ranger-led Hike on the North Trail

Date: 3/6/2015 Time: 8:30 a.m.

**Description:** Join the Ranger on the 3-mile North trail for a hike surrounded by beautiful Sonoran Desert! We will make a few stops along the way to discuss the plants and cacti of the area and the strategies that help them thrive in a harsh desert landscape. Meet at the North Trailhead.

**Core:** Plants

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### Wildflower Walk

Date: 3/19/2015 Time: 8:30 a.m.

**Description:** Take a walk on the wild side today and head out to the park as we look for spring wildflowers! Plan for a short, slow hike as we explore the Sonoran Desert as we step into Spring! Meeting location will be determined at a later date, so please check the website for details. [www.maricopa.gov/parks](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks)

**Core:** Plants

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### Geocaching Basics

Date: 3/21/2015 Time: 9 a.m.

**Description:** Join the Park Ranger to learn about this fun outdoor activity, and do some hands on geocaching! Bring your GPS if you have one, but if you don't have one, no worries! You can still come out to see what this activity is all about. Be prepared to do some hiking and be outside. Meet the Ranger at the Trailhead Staging Area.

**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Reptile Feeding

Date: 3/21/2015 Time: 2 p.m.

**Description:** Our resident snakes will be eating their lunch, and invite you to join them! They will be eating pre-killed mice, so it may be a little easier for you to stomach than you think. If you haven't seen a snake eat, it's a fascinating process. Now is your chance! Meet at the Visitor Center.

**Core:** Animals

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## MONTHLY EVENTS

### Sunset/Full Moon Hike

**Date:** 3/4/2015 **Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Description:** Have you ever ventured out into the desert at night? If not, now is your chance! Join the Ranger for this hike that will begin as the sun sets, but will end in the light of the full moon. Bring flashlights and come prepared for about a 3-mile hike. Meet at the Trailhead Staging Area.  
**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Ranger-led Hike on the North Trail

**Date:** 3/6/2015 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Description:** Join the Ranger on the 3-mile North trail for a hike surrounded by beautiful Sonoran Desert! We will make a few stops along the way to discuss the plants and cacti of the area and the strategies that help them thrive in a harsh desert landscape. Meet at the North Trailhead.  
**Core:** Plants

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### Become a Jr. Ranger

**Date:** 3/7/2015 **Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Description:** Bring your kids (ages 5-12) out to the park for this "on your own" program. Stop by the Nature Center between 9:30-10:30 a.m. to pick up the Junior Ranger Booklet. Head outside to complete the required activities and have fun! Return to the Nature Center when you're finished to pick up the Jr. Ranger badge you earned! You can complete the activities in this program in 1-2 hours. (Please note that the Nature Center closes at 4pm).  
**Core:** Outdoor Skills

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### Bird Walk

**Date:** 3/11/2015 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Description:** Bring your binoculars! We will take a slow walk through the desert to look for birds. (If you don't have binoculars, we will have a few pairs available to borrow). Come out and enjoy a relaxing morning with fellow nature lovers. Meet at the Visitor Center.  
**Core:** Animals

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### Nature Nurture – Kids Craft Time

**Date:** 3/12/2015 **Time:** 11 a.m.  
**Description:** Nurture your child's love of nature with a kid friendly craft project! We will have a few easy options for your child to choose from to make a souvenir from their visit to the park. Program will

be held at the Nature Center. Please RSVP for this program by contacting the park at 480-471-0173 or email [amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov)  
**Core:** Entertainment & Social Skills

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### Wildflower Walk

**Date:** 3/13/2015 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.  
**Description:** Take a walk on the wild side today and head out to the park as we look for spring wildflowers! Plan for a short, slow hike as we explore the Sonoran Desert as we step into Spring! Meeting location will be determined at a later date, so please check the website for details. [www.maricopa.gov/parks](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks)  
**Core:** Plants

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### Sonoran Desert 101

**Date:** 3/14/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Description:** Join the Ranger for this introduction to the Sonoran Desert. We will head out on the trail for a short, slow walk to look around and learn about our surroundings. The trail is an ADA-accessible trail so all ages and abilities are welcome! Meet the Ranger at the Nursery Tank Trailhead.  
**Core:** Plants

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**Core:** Plants

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stomach than you think. If you haven't seen a snake eat, it's a fascinating process. Now is your chance! Meet at the Visitor Center.  
**Core:** Animals

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### STAFF:

**Park Supervisor:** Rand Hubbell  
**Interpretive Ranger:** Amy Roberts  
**Office Asst.** Jeanine O'Reilly  
**Maintenance:** Erik Aguayo and Mark Ostapczuk

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PARK SUPERVISOR:

Thank you for your continued support and interest in McDowell Mountain Regional Park. We realize that you have a choice when it comes to selecting recreation venues and appreciate your business!

Sincerely,

Rand Hubbell

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### WHAT TO BRING:

Please wear closed-toe shoes or boots for most programs, and bring plenty of drinking water. See descriptions below for specifics.

**Notes:** Fees for our programs are included in the park entry fee of \$6 per vehicle or with your annual pass or camping fee. Reservations are not required unless specified in the program description. Hikes/programs are canceled if heavy inclement weather is imminent. If possible, canceled hikes will be posted on our website.

### MEDIA PARTNERS:

Thank you for helping us advertise McDowell Mountain Regional Park's programs and events! Please include Ranger Amy's email address – [amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:amyroberts@mail.maricopa.gov) - in your postings so park visitors can contact the park directly for with general questions about programs, updates, and changes.